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4 May 1982

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Dear [redacted]

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I promised you further feedback on your paper as well as on our plans for publishing it and can now provide you with both.

The paper has been well received by most of those who have read it in the two principal DDI offices concerned: the Office of East Asian Analysis and the Office of Soviet Analysis. Some readers think deeper exploration could be made of Soviet and Chinese unwillingness to accept US manipulation in the triangular relationship. Other readers want additional paragraphs devoted to studying the possibility of some easing of tensions between the USSR and China. The latter subject, however, was not part of your topic as we originally framed it. Thus I think the omission is correct. Moreover, the DDI itself is doing a good deal of work on the easing of tensions.

I took the liberty of adding a paragraph on page 14 at the end of the section entitled "A Sino-Soviet War: Most Unlikely." My addition starts "There is a somewhat greater possibility of a Sino-Soviet limited war, such as almost occurred in 1969." The remaining sentences fill out that possibility in the context of Soviet reaction to a possible (but unlikely) second Chinese attack on Vietnam. On page 15 at the beginning of the section marked VI, I have added "Consequences of" before "US Policy Options." This recasts this section in a form we usually use. I have also deleted the last paragraph on page 17 beginning "The US cannot determine..." on the grounds that it veers too close to telling the policymaker that he should take various actions. As you know, we are quite cowardly when it comes to telling policymakers what to do. Our approach is to underscore the consequences of various options.

Harry Rowen and other members of our group have also read the paper and found it very good.

Publication is now going forward. You remain anonymous as requested. When distribution is completed I will ask our friend to show you a copy and furnish you with the list of senior officials to whom the paper was distributed.

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Enclosed is a final check covering expenses you incurred in preparation of the paper.

Best regards, *and Charles*

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Enclosure

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